



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, December 27, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

EMERALD ASH BORER:

An Emerald Ash Borer Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting was held at the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Regional Office in Raleigh, North Carolina during the week of December 13, 2004. Scientists met with program managers and were given updates of the continuing program activities in response to the pest in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Members of the SAP reviewed current operations and discussed program objectives for next season. They examined "gateways" for EAB into non-infested North American ash resources, determining that program efforts must be made to prevent pest movement out of these areas. Indiana and Ohio were the primary access areas, followed by the Mackinac Bridge area between the Lower and Upper Peninsula of Michigan, as well as the St. Clair area adjacent to Canada.

Maryland: The Maryland Department of Agriculture removed their ash sentinel trees in November 2004. These were completely stripped of bark; results were negative for all trees. One-hundred fifty (150) ash trees have been ordered and will serve as sentinel trees for next season. These will be placed in early April; approximately 100 will be placed in the 1/2 mile buffer area.

Michigan: A single EAB larval specimen was collected from a trap tree in Milton Township, Antrim County, Michigan. It was confirmed by Dr. James Zaboltny on Friday December 10, 2004. This is a new county find.

One larval specimen was collected from a black ash in Greenbush, Iosco County, Michigan. Confirmation was made by Dr. James Zaboltny on Friday December 17, 2004. This find is the first for this county, but it is located approximately one mile from the original Alcona County find in September 2004.

Virginia: The Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services reports that their sentinel trees were removed and stripped in early October; results for all ash trees were negative for the eight sites involved. New sites for next season are currently being scouted in the same area. The plan will include using some natural ash trees located on the edge of the 1/2 mile buffer site in conjunction with sentinel trees. 8-10 sites will be used; two to three of these will be near areas where ash tree nursery stock from Michigan was planted in Maryland. There will also be a site across from Ft. Washington in Maryland.

Source: Deborah McPartlan

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE:

New Jersey: As of December 22, 584 trees have been removed from the Carteret ALB Infestation Site; 364 infested host trees and 220 high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continue to work this week in the streambed located in the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township within the ALB Carteret Quarantine. Approximately 1,000 host trees, including the 410 infested trees plus a number of high risk host trees, will be removed during this first phase of tree removal. More than 4,000 host trees will be removed over the next several months.

Field surveys of the infestation area continued this week, with 58,060 trees inspected to date. Two new compliance agreements were signed, bringing the total to 75. The quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles, with a pending expansion to 12.1 square miles; that after an infested tree was found beyond the western edge of the established zone. Five US Forest Service climbers, two NJDA climbers and 21 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and New Jersey Forestry Service are performing survey and regulatory activities.

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, reporter, Alexandria Fenwick, with The Jersey Journal called requesting an update on the Jersey City ALB Program. Berry Emens, USDA-APHIS New Jersey ALB Program Director, and John Dodd, USDA-APHIS-LPA ALB Program public affairs specialist, conducted a phone interview providing the



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reporter with a brief history and update on the Jersey City ALB Program, along with an update on the ALB Carteret Infestation. The story is slated to run sometime this week (no final decision on the actual date was provided), anticipate a good news story.

On Wednesday, December 22, reporter Samuel Rivera and cameraman Edger Medinan, with WNJU 47 - Telemundo/NBC TV, covered the tree removal process being conducted in the streambed located in the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township within the ALB Carteret Quarantine, for a Spanish-language news report on ALB. Berry Emens, USDA-APHIS New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director, and Elisandra Sanchez, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Compliance Officer for the New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, were interviewed, providing information/history on the Carteret ALB Program, to include the need to remove the trees in order to stop the spread of the ALB, the need for public support in allowing program officials to remove infested trees, to inspect their trees and not to remove wood outside of the quarantine. The story aired during the 6 p.m. Newscast on December 22, which was broadcasted via cable in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

During the past two weeks (December 16-23) Rosa Yoo, New Jersey Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator, has been on site at the ALB Carteret during the tree removal process to answer any questions about reforestation posed by either homeowners or businesses.

New York:

Regulatory Actions: On December 17, a violation order was written up to United Carting of Staten Island for failure to produce proper disposal receipts.

Regulatory incident follow up: The program has been informed that Tully Environmental will no longer accept any wood waste or debris, until the situation is resolved with a compliance agreement. Program staff (NYSDAM) are now scrambling to notify the myriad of state and city agencies under contract to Tully that proper disposal of wood waste was still required and their responsibility under the law. A full report of

findings has not been sent to the program from Pennsylvania PPQ or IES as the investigation is still in progress.

Removals: Four of the 5 known infested trees in Queens were removed this week; the remaining tree removal is awaiting the homeowner's return from vacation.

Reforestation: Total Fall planting numbers for Restoration Count will come at the end of December. Tree planting initiated of approximately 60 trees in NYC Parks affected by ALB by the New York Tree Trust. The Town of Babylon is about to start the planting of another 60 trees in the quarantine area.

Media Coverage: On December 21, Newsday, the largest daily newspaper on Long Island, ran a half page feature article in their Marketing Section highlighting the ALB infestation on Long Island. The article included an excellent photo of the beetle. Program personnel had no knowledge this was to run and came as a pleasant surprise.

Illinois:

Survey Activities: All Level 1 and Level 2 survey areas for 2004 are 100% complete, nearly one month ahead of schedule.

As a result of recent Level 3 survey activities conducted this week, the 25th District Advisory Council (Chicago Police Department) and the 31st Alderman Ward Office, both requested a large quantity of ALB pest alert sheets and magnets for distribution.

Regulatory Actions: Contact letters were sent to the 17 companies that did not complete the compliance agreement updating process.

An APHIS Form 7060, "Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations," was issued to a construction company for removing 3 ALB host trees in the Oz extension of the Ravenswood quarantine zone. The waste management company that inadvertently received the wood requested ALB information and quarantine maps to distribute to its employees in order to help



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prevent the removal of host tree wood in roll-off dumpsters. This wood was most likely disposed of and is now buried in a landfill in Illinois.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECALL COMPLIANCE SURVEY:

Working within the Incident Command System in the state of Illinois, ALB personnel were dispatched to canvas various retail establishments in the Chicago metro area to verify compliance with the national Polytree Artificial Xmas Tree recall. ALB officers and technicians found the recalled product for sale in 4 separate locations and referral was made to SITC. Several live adult beetles were found in trees confiscated from an Ace Hardware in Schaumburg, IL. The beetles have been submitted for identification.

Source: